

Message Text

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SUBJECT:FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE

REF: A. MOSCOW 17849; B. MOSCOW 17850

1. DEPT SEES NO NEED FOR SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE. EXCHANGES AGREEMENT (ARTICLE IV, PARA 1 (A)), PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES (SECTION I, PARA 2), AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING EXCHANGES (PARA 3) PROVIDE LANGUAGE WHICH ENABLE ALL SOVIET INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE. THE PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS PROVIDE THAT EXCHANGES OF LECTURERS WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT, AND DO NOT DESIGNATE THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR ANY OTHER SOVIET AGENCY AS THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FOR THE LECTURER EXCHANGE.

2. SIGNING SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH MINED AND ACADEMY

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WOULD EITHER REQUIRE US TO SIGN A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH

MHE OR LEAVE MHE IN AWKWARD POSITION OF BEING ONLY SOVIET ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERING FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE WITHOUT ITS OWN FORMAL AGREEMENT. EXCHANGES INVOLVING INDIVIDUAL SOVIET MINISTRIES NOW OPERATE WITHOUT SEPARATE FORMAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THEM AND DEPT OR AGENCIES ACTING ON OUR BEHALF.

3. SUGGEST EMBASSY SEND NOTES TO MINED AND ACADEMY STATING ;UR UNDERSTANDING THEY WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE UNDER CULTURAL AGREEMENT AS IS MHE, AND INCLUDING SPECIFIC POINTS CONTAINED IN DRAFT AGREEMENTS REFTELS A AND B. DEPT BELIEVES THIS WOULD ALLOW US MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH SOVIET INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDE HISTORICAL RECORD OF TERMS OF MINED AND ACADEMY EXCHANGES, AND SATISFY MINED AND ACADEMY DESIRE FOR WRITTEN CONFIRMATION.

4. EMBASSY MAY WANT TO CONSULT WITH MFA PRIOR CONTACTING MINED AND ACADEMY.

5. PLS ADVISE IF OTHER REASONS DICTATE SIGNING FORMAL AGREEMENTS.

6. ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OF TEXTS PROPOSED REFTELS A AND B, DEPT HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. BOTH TEXTS: AGREEMENT SPECIFIES THAT SOVIET LECTURERS RECEIVE DOLLARS 280 IN US (PARA 3 C, IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS). RECOMMEND EMBASSY NOT CITE SPECIFIC STIPEND LEVELS BUT RATHER LET FINANCIAL TERMS OF EXISTING EXCHANGE AGREEMENT APPLY TO MINED AND ACADEMY AS WELL AS MHE. FYI: SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES NOW WORKING OUT FUNDING ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY MINIMUM LEVELS SET IN AGREEMENT ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY FUNDS TIED TO SPECIFIC USES IN US, E.G. TRAVEL, BOOKS, ETC. AS DISINCENTIVE TO SAVE AT EXPENSE OF BROADENING EXPOSURE TO US LIFE. THERE IS ALSO SOME EVIDENCE SOVIET LECTURERS ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN PORTION OF HIGH SALARIES TO SOVIET TREASURY. END FYI. SINCE IN MOST CASES INDIVIDUAL UNIVERSITIES, NOT DEPT OR CIES, PAY STIPENDS, AND THESE VARY BY INSTITUTION, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SPECIFY ONE STIPEND LEVEL. DEPT RECOMMENDS MAINTAINING PRESENT STIPEND IN AG-

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REEMENT AS FLOOR UPON WHICH VARIOUS AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE BUILT BY UNIVERSITIES. SUGGEST EMBASSY NOT CALL ATTENTION TO STIPEND QUESTION BUT SIMPLY INCLUDE IN GENERAL STATEMENT ON APPLICABILITY OF AGREEMENT CONDITIONS (E.G. REFTEL B, PARA 9).

B. BOTH TEXTS: RECOMMEND NOT SPECIFYING NUMBER OF LECTURERS TO BE EXCHANGED IN INITIAL NOTES, SINCE SOVIETS WILL CON-

STRUE THESE NOTES AS CONTAINING ESSENCE OF LECTURER EXCHANGE, THEREBY MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ALTER NUMBERS EXCHANGED TO MEET NEW PRIORITIES IN FUTURE. RECOMMEND SPECIFYING TARGET FIGURES IN SUBSEQUENT CABLES. ALSO ADVISE USE OF "AT LEAST" TERMINOLOGY RATHER THAN TERM "QUOTA" SINCE FORMER IMPLIES MINIMUM RATHER THAN MAXIMUM NUMBER.

C. MINED TEXT: FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE FOR EXCHANGE OF PRIORITY FIELDS IS UNWORKABLE FOR CIES GIVEN SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE THAT DATE. ALSO DOUBTFUL WE CAN EXCHANGE 6 LECTURERS WITH MINED (EASIER WITH ACADEMY SINCE MHE ALREADY HAS US REQUESTS FOR SOVIET ACADEMICIANS).

D. ACADEMY TEXT: FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE ACCEPTABLE FOR US (THOUGH PROBABLY NOT FOR SOVIETS), SINCE MHE ALREADY HAS US REQUESTS FOR SOVIET ACADEMICIANS.

7. RECOMMEND WE SEEK BALANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL SCIENCES/HUMANITIES AND HARD SCIENCES IN ACADEMY EXCHANGE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER MINED EXCHANGE MAY BE WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF HUMANITIES/SOCIAL SCIENCES (CF. REFTTEL B, PARA 11). SISCO

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